

Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2842, and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2842) to amend chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, concerning the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program, to enable the Federal Government to enroll an employee and his or her family in the FEHB Program when a State court orders the employee to provide health insurance coverage for a child of the employee but the employee fails to provide the coverage.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 2842) was read the third time and passed.

TO COMPLETE THE ORDERLY WITHDRAWAL OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION FROM THE CIVIL ADMINISTRATION OF THE PRIBILOF ISLANDS, ALASKA

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3417 and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3417) to complete the orderly withdrawal of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration from the civil administration of the Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 4320

(Purpose: To reauthorize the Coastal Zone Management Act and the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act, and for other purposes)

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, Senators SNOWE and KERRY have an amendment at the desk, and I ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT] for Ms. SNOWE, for herself and Mr. KERRY, proposes an amendment numbered 4320.

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Amendments Submitted.")

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4320) was agreed to.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise to support H.R. 3417, the Pribilof Islands Transition Act with the amendment I have offered. This bill, as amended, contains a number of ocean, coastal, and fisheries related titles that will result in major conservation gains for our nation's marine resources at a time when we are placing enormous demands on them. The bill not only attempts to provide additional environmental protections through a number of state and local programs, but also tools for better management.

Title I of this bill is the Pribilof Islands Transition Act. The Alaskan Pribilof Islands in the Bering Sea were a former reserve for harvesting fur seals. The Commerce Department, acting through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), has been involved in municipal and social services on the islands since 1910. In 1983, NOAA tried to remove themselves from administering these programs. However, despite the \$20 million in funds the Pribilof Islands received to replace future annual Federal appropriations, the Pribilof Islanders claim that the terms of the transition process were not met and the withdrawal failed.

This title authorizes \$28 million over five years to again attempt to achieve the orderly withdrawal of NOAA from the civil administration of the Pribilof Islands. Additionally, it authorizes \$10 million a year for five years for NOAA to complete its environmental cleanup and landfill closure obligations prior to the final transfer of federal property to the six local entities. The Pribilof Islands have historically been a very expensive program to the American taxpayers. Congress expects that this title will provide a final termination of NOAA's municipal and social service responsibilities on the islands and a distinct end to federal taxpayer funding of those services.

Title II of this bill is the Coastal Zone Management Act of 2000, which refines and reauthorizes funding for the nation's coastal zone management program. This is the same language that was passed by unanimous consent in the Senate on September 28, 2000. Not only is this federal-state partnership important to my home state of Maine, but it is also a significant management tool for coastal states throughout the country. Despite the fact that the coastal zone only comprises 10 percent of the contiguous U.S. land area, it is home to more than 53 percent of the U.S. population, and more than 3,600 people relocate there annually. Not only is it an important economic region, but the coastal zone is also critical ecologically.

We are currently facing a very serious problem in the coastal zone in the

form of non-point source pollution. This type of runoff pollution is degrading the condition of our coastal rivers, wetlands, and marine environments. Compromising the environmental integrity of the coastal zone can in turn have a large impact on the regions' economic viability in a number of sectors, including tourism and fishing. The Coastal Zone Management Act of 2000 addresses this issue by encouraging and funding states to implement local solutions to their non-point source pollution problems. We have not created any new mandates or programs addressing non-point source pollution. Rather, the Coastal Community program can be used at the states' discretion if they want to create and implement local community-based solutions to problems, which would include non-point source pollution control strategies and measures.

This title greatly increases authorization levels for the coastal zone management program, allowing states to better address their coastal management plan goals. While we have achieved many successes through the CZMA, the states have made it clear that they can do more and that they can raise additional funds to match the increased federal funding. Therefore, we have authorized a total of \$136.5 million for fiscal year 2001 and increased authorization levels by \$5.5 million a year through fiscal year 2004. This total authorization includes an increase for the National Estuarine Research and Reserve System (NERRS) to \$12 million in fiscal year 2001, with an additional \$1 million increase each year through fiscal year 2004.

Mr. President, Title III of the bill deals with the management of several Atlantic coast fisheries. Subtitle A reauthorizes the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act (ASBCA). The ASBCA was originally passed to help coordinate and improve interstate management of Atlantic striped bass, an important commercial and recreational fish. Because striped bass migrate along the eastern seaboard, it is imperative that management measures be coordinated among the various states. The rebuilding of striped bass populations is considered one of our fisheries management success stories and it is critical that we continue these efforts. This subtitle authorizes \$1.25 million a year for fiscal years 2001 through 2003 to carry out the provisions of the act and another \$250,000 to conduct a population study on the Atlantic striped bass.

Subtitle B, the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Act of 2000, will reauthorize the highly successful interstate program that manages coastal fisheries that cross jurisdictional boundaries along the east coast. The states have proven that joint management of these resources is far more effective than a piecemeal approach by individual